

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

SAL-01 OMB-01 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 INRE-00

RSR-01 /225 W

----- 109003

P R 041330 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9016

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: USNTAD: POSSIBLE DEBATE ON REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF : GENEVA 1502

1. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED SEVERAL TIMES THAT NIGERIA BELIEVES U. S. HAS FAILED TO SPEK OUT FORTHRIGHTLY IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, PARTICULARLY UNCTAD, AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES. TO COUNTER THIS ASSERTION EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS POINTED OUT THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON SUCH AN APPROACH BECAUSE OUR POSITION COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO, UNLIKE NIGERIA, ARE DEPENDENT ON CLOSE TIES TO EC. EMBASSY HAS STRESSED THAT WHIL U. S. NEVER WAVERS FROM OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, WE BELIEVE THAT BEST PROSPECTS FOR RESOLVING PROBLEM LIE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

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BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES, RATHER THAN ON DEBATES IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT IN OUR BILATERAL TALKS WITH EC WE LEAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE ANY IDEA HOW NIGERIANS CONCLUDED THAT U. S. NOW FAVORS TOUGHER DIRECT STAND AS REPORTED PARA ONE REFTEL. WE SUSPECT THAT " WISH IS FATHER OF THOUGHT."

3. WHILE U. S. SHOULD CERTAINLY AVOID PUBLIC STANDS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE BEHIND CURRENT NIGERIAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST REVENUE PREFERENCES, WE SHOULD CONTINUE MAKE CLEAR OUR FUNDAMENTAL OPPOSITION THIS DISCRIMINATORY TRADING DEVICE. GENEVA' S SUGGESTION (PARA 4 REFTEL) FOR A LOW- KEY STATEMENT REAFFIRMING OUR POSITION SERVES THESE PURPOSES AND WE ENDORSE IT.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

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OECD PARIS
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